

**MINUTES
TOWN OF DARIEN
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
REGULAR MEETING**

August 6, 2012

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Monday, August 6, 2012. In attendance were First Selectman Stevenson, and Selectmen Campbell, Bayne, Lundeen and Nielsen. Also in attendance was Administrative Officer Karl Kilduff.

First Selectman Stevenson called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

FIRST SELECTMAN'S REPORT

First Selectman Stevenson reported on a State Emergency Preparedness Simulation conducted on July 30 and 31 in the new Emergency Operations Center in the Police Department. The intent of the exercise was for municipalities to practice their response and highlight areas that need improvement. The areas that were determined to need improvement were community education on preparedness, shelter policies and organizing volunteers to assist in operating a shelter.

It was also reported that a ceremony for the Five Mile River Watershed was held. The watershed was studied in 2011 with the collaboration of the Southwest Regional Planning Association, the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, the City of Norwalk and the Towns of New Canaan and Darien. The study assessed the condition of the river and identified bacteria and pollutants in the water.

The First Selectman noted that a STEAP Grant was submitted for the Upper Pond which will move a project forward that had been in the planning stage for 10 years. The involvement of Selectman Lundeen and Administrative Officer Kilduff in preparing the grant application was acknowledged.

First Selectman Stevenson reported on a meeting held with Yankee Gas to better coordinate local paving schedules with possible gas line extensions from the utility.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Kilduff reported that there were two STEAP grants dealt with. The first was a request to re-program an award of \$150,000 from FY10 for Gorham's Pond watershed. The second was another \$400,000 application for new funding.

He also advised the Board that bids were opened for the Fire Department's Training Facility which is partially funded by another STEAP grant. Bids were being reviewed, but it appeared as if the low bid can be funded by the available grant and local budget funding.

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PUBLIC COMMENT

Susan Cameron and Dot Kelly presented information to the Board regarding the need for increased public education on single stream recycling. They suggested the creation of a recycling task force to work on improved public education.

Cindy Brown addressed support for moving the Abbey/Intervale drainage project forward. She asked the Board to move forward with the project and offered assistance to make it happen.

Pam and Jan Thompson addressed the Board regarding traffic concerns with the proposed traffic flow coming from the Allen O'Neill redevelopment project. They were concerned about increased traffic counts and speed which would have a negative impact on their neighborhood. It was suggested that the Town allow for a removable barrier to better control the flow the traffic.

Charles Judge spoke on the Intervale Road drainage project and reviewed the history of the neighborhood with a member of the Public Works Committee of the RTM.

NEW BUSINESS

a) Discuss Intervale Road Drainage Improvements

Public Works Director Robert Steeger detailed the Intervale Road drainage project for the Board of Selectmen. The project would start at the end of Devon and Intervale Roads and end off of Rose Lane. He noted that easements will be required for the construction and the discharge area. Catch basins are proposed to increase in size and the pipes should be able to carry 4-6 times the capacity at present. Pipe capacity would also allow some properties to pump storm water into the sewer.

Current cost estimates were calculated at \$1.3 million which included the cost for road resurfacing. Mr. Steeger added that the design is 90% complete. When completed, local permitting is required through the Environmental Protection Commission. Afterwards it could be a capital budget project.

First Selectman Stevenson asked how long it would take to complete the design and permitting as well as acquire the easements. Mr. Steeger stated that the project could be ready by the spring of 2013 however, he could not comment on the length of time for the easements.

The Board noted that the project would move through the completion of design and be a high priority for the budget cycle. Mr. Steeger would keep the Board updated when the plans are complete per Selectman Bayne's request.

b) Discuss and Take Action on Hoyt Street Sidewalk

First Selectman Stevenson noted that there was little to add at the present time as the First Selectman of New Canaan was on vacation and could not respond to the information request on their commitment.

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The Board debated proceeding with the design part of the project including the portion in New Canaan. Mr. Steeger reported that design was quoted at \$50,000 for the Darien portion. Additional funds would be needed to design the portion in New Canaan and to survey the right of way in that area.

The Board discussed the merits of moving on the Darien portion only versus the entire length through New Canaan. Debate on the project ended with First Selectman Stevenson suggesting that once a written response is received from New Canaan, which acknowledges that Darien would be doing design work on New Canaan's behalf, the Board could take a vote.

c) Discuss Draft Sidewalk Policy

A draft sidewalk policy was reviewed by the Board for further consideration. Selectman Nielsen asked for a list of areas where people were asking for new sidewalks.

Selectman Bayne suggested that the goal of the policy should look at sidewalks as being not just for transportation but for recreational use too. The rating system for project was also discussed.

The Board agreed to develop further comments on the draft policy which could be reviewed and acted upon at a future meeting. First Selectman Stevenson expressed an interest in having others involved in reviewing the policy.

d) Discuss and Take Action on a Resolution Authorizing and Directing the First Selectman to Execute an Emergency Management Planning Grant Agreement with the Connecticut Department of Public Health

Motion moved by Selectman Nielsen, seconded by Selectman Campbell, that the Darien Board of Selectmen hereby authorizes and directs Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman to execute a grant agreement with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health; and

Be it further resolved that Jayme Stevenson, First Selectman is authorized to make, execute and approve on behalf of the Town of Darien, any and all contracts or amendments thereof with the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health related to the Public Health Preparedness grant (Contract Log #2012-1014).

The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

e) Discuss and Take Action on Appropriation from Parking Fund for Re-paving Leroy East Parking Lot

Selectman Bayne questioned why this project was not included in the budget. While not against the appropriation, he asked that Mr. Steeger be more prescient in his budgeting.

Selectman Bayne moved, seconded by Selectman Nielsen, to approve the appropriation from the Parking Fund to re-pave the Leroy East parking lot. The motion passed on a 5-0- vote.

f) Transfers

35 Leroy Natural Gas Line

RESOLVED:

That the following transfer of appropriations is approved for referral to the Board of Finance:

From:			To:			
Acct. No.	Account	Amount		Acct. No.	Account	Amount
	BoF Infra Resrv	\$129,703		TBD	35 Leroy Gas Line	\$129,703
	TOTAL	\$129,703			TOTAL	\$129,703

It was noted that this item had been discussed by the Board previously with some looking for the project contingency to pick up the proposed expense. It was also highlighted that since the bid results were not in yet, available funding within the project is unknown.

Selectman Campbell explained that Yankee Gas requires a signed agreement and payment for the line. He added that bids will be opened after Labor Day and Yankee Gas stops installations around November 1. He stated that if the current construction season is missed, the whole winter will be lost.

Selectman Bayne took issue with the Building Committee discussed the gas line before going to the RTM for approval and felt that the Building Committee needed to explain this. He was also concerned about other unfunded expenses that the Building Committee should calculate. The Board discussed a number of costs with Selectman Bayne expressing a general concern about budget creep.

First Selectman Stevenson stated that the problem was a timing issue. She noted that the Chairman of the Board of Finance was supportive of such a connection.

Selectman Nielsen moved, seconded by Selectman Campbell, to approve the transfer request. The motion passed on a 3-2 vote.

AGENDA REVIEW

The Board discussed revisiting the sidewalk policy and financial decisions for the transfer station during a meeting in September. It was also suggested that mid-year budget review could take place in October to discuss where department may see their budgets going.

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APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

Regular Meeting of July 23, 2012

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under Administrative Officer's Report, second paragraph, the minutes were amended to add "a \$45,000 check coming back to the Town from **its** insurance company **as a part of a membership equity distribution program.**"

Page 2, under Public Comment, second paragraph, 3rd line, the minutes were amended to change the "Engineering Department" to the Department of Public Works.

Page 2, under Public Comment, fifth paragraph, 4th line, the minutes were amended to change the "WPCA cement pipe" to WPA cement pipe.

Page 3, under Public Comment, second paragraph, the minutes were amended to correct the resident's name from Ms. Ellen Klein to Ellyn Coyne.

Page 3, under Public Comment, third paragraph, 5th line, the minutes were amended to change the word "unfair" to fair.

Page 5, under Discuss and Take Action on Hoyt Street Sidewalk, second paragraph, the first sentence was corrected to read "Mr. Bayne said that he was in favor of a full blown sidewalk for safety considerations."

Page 5, under Discuss and Take Action on Hoyt Street Sidewalk, third paragraph, 3rd line, the minutes were amended to remove "Barringer Road" and replace it with the train station.

Page 5, under Discuss and Take Action on Hoyt Street Sidewalk, fourth paragraph, 2nd line, the minutes were amended to remove the word "recommendations" and replace it with considerations.

Page 5, under Discuss and Take Action on Hoyt Street Sidewalk, fifth paragraph, the following was ended to the end of the paragraph which read "Mr. Lundeen said that after attending the same external meeting with the First Selectman of New Canaan, he did feel there was support for the sidewalk if State or other external funds could be obtained. First Selectman Stevenson said she would week a written clarification."

Page 6, under Discuss Policy for Transfer Station, first paragraph, 3rd line, the minutes were amended to eliminate the sentence "Other than recyclables, the commercial users pay the tipping fees" and replace it with – Commercial haulers pay for MSW by weight and recycling is free."

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Page 9, under Agenda Review, first paragraph, 1st line, the minutes were amended to correct the word “would” to should.

Every reference to “First Selectwoman” was corrected to First Selectman.

Selectman Bayne moved, seconded by Selectman Campbell, to approve the minutes for the regular meeting of July 23, 2012 as amended. The motion passed on a 5-0 vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business to consider at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Karl F. Kilduff

Administrative Officer